

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-54 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 18 and 37 are independent. Claims 1-54 are amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Substitute Specification

The attached substitute specification contains amendments to the original specification to place it in better form. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not introduce new matter into the disclosure of the present invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are amended to be placed in clear and definite form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 37-54 are allowed. Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12 and 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 and 18-36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter. As explained above, the claims are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. Accordingly, claims 13 and 18 should be in condition for allowance. Moreover, claims 2, 8, 10-12 and 17 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 8, 10-12 and 17 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,759,014 to Van Lintel. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejection, but merely to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a liquid outlet link assembly, including "pressure compressible means which contracts to reduce the pressure surge of a liquid within the body when the liquid is delivered by the pump at an increased pressure through the liquid inlet, and then gradually expands to decrease the pressure drop of the liquid within the body as it is delivered through the liquid outlet, so as to maintain a substantially steady liquid pressure at the liquid outlet."

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of elements recited in claim 1, as amended, is not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art of record, including Van Lintel.

Van Lintel discloses a micropump which includes an inlet conduit 4, a discharge conduit 5, a pumping chamber 14 and pumping member 36, as shown in FIG. 1. The volume of the pumping chamber 14 is controlled by pumping member 36, which constitutes a movable or deformable wall of the pumping chamber 14. However, the pumping member 36 in Van Lintel does not contract to reduce the pressure surge of a liquid within the body when the liquid is delivered by the pump at an increased pressure through the liquid inlet, as required by the present invention. Therefore, Van Lintel does not teach or suggest "pressure compressible means which contracts to reduce the pressure surge of a liquid within the body when the liquid is delivered by the pump at an increased pressure through the liquid inlet, and then gradually expands to decrease the pressure drop of the liquid within the body as it is delivered through the liquid outlet, so as to maintain a substantially steady liquid pressure at the liquid outlet," as recited in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied prior art of record for at least the foregoing reasons. The dependent claims are allowable at least because the independent claims, from which these claims depend, are allowable, as well as for the further limitations recited therein. Thus, all claims are allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

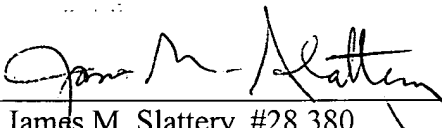
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Sam Bhattacharya (Reg. No. 48,107) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery, #28,380

SG
JMS/SB/jmb:sld
1817-0111P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000